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# Pelham NEWS

Published by Postmedia



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Trick or treat

MICHELLE ALLENBERG /  
POSTMEDIA NETWORK  
Hunter Cordner, 4,  
makes ghost cutouts  
with modelling  
compound at a  
Halloween event at the  
Niagara Safety Village  
Saturday in Welland.  
See story page 2.



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# UPFRONT

■ COMMUNITY: Halloween at Niagara Safety Village

# Safe Halloween stressed

**MICHELLE ALLENBERG**  
Postmedia Network

With Halloween right around the corner Niagara Safety Village in Welland is preparing parents and children for a fun night of trick or treating.

About 100 children and family members attended a Halloween event at the Safety Village Saturday afternoon. Kids of all ages received safety bags and candy.

There were craft activities with carved-out pumpkins and ghosts to decorate. Toys and games were set up for children to participate in and make some new friends.

A favourite for many of the children was the craft table with modelling dough and shapes to make ghosts and other scary creatures.

Niagara Regional Police officers used the event to inform parents and children how to stay safe during Halloween.

Const. Robin Bleich said it's always important to check treats children get before letting them eat them. Even if you know where the treats came, she said it's good to check it because you never know if the manufacturer missed something.

Bleich also stressed the importance of "stranger danger."

"Power in numbers, that's very important, to stay with the parent's they go out with," she said.

Niagara Safety Village's

Halloween party is in its eighth year. Executive director Shirley Cordner said the event isn't a fundraiser, but a chance for the community to see what the village is all about.

It also gives people the

opportunity to meet police officers, paramedics and firefighters. Cordner said if they feel comfortable around police officers and firefighters they will be more likely to call for help.

"Most of the children are

under the age of seven. This is a place to bring children that is safe, and they can still get some candy and talk to a police officer or do games and crafts," Cordner said.

Bleich's final advice for having a successful Halloween

was to stay aware, but also to have fun.

"I mean I'm a mom so I get it, Halloween is big for them (children). If they want to wear that Halloween costume for six days after, let them, right? Because they aren't

going to take it off," she said laughing.

Niagara Safety Village collected food donations for the Hope Centre as part of the Halloween party.

[michelle.allenberg@sunmedia.ca](mailto:michelle.allenberg@sunmedia.ca)



**MICHELLE ALLENBERG**  
Postmedia Network  
Lucas Fortier, 7, dressed as Luigi, and his brother Leon, 5, dressed as an astronaut, play with a train set at a Niagara Safety Village Halloween event Saturday in Welland.

## Be there for all our FIRSTS!

**FIRST HOT TICKET event**  
In Caimes Recital Hall:  
**Fortunate Ones**  
Nov 7



"A rare gem.  
Two voices singing as one."  
- Alan Doyle, Great Big Sea

**FirstOntario**  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE



**FIRST HOT TICKET event**  
in Robertson Theatre:  
**Daniel Romano**  
Nov 12



"Countercultural crooning,  
honky-tonk heartache and  
mid-century melodrama."  
- Rolling Stone

**FirstOntarioPAC.ca**  
Box Office: 905-688-0722

**FIRST HOT TICKET event** in Partridge Hall:  
**Darlene Love**  
Nov 28

"Her thunderbolt voice is as embedded  
in the history of Rock 'n' Roll as Clapton's  
guitar or Dylan's lyrics."  
- New York Times

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Tours, Niagara Sings! and more Sun Nov 15



## ■ CONSTRUCTION

# Wells of Hope volunteers looking for laser level

WAYNE CAMPBELL  
Postmedia Network

Hey buddy can you spare a laser level?

Wells of Hope volunteers, Ben Obdeyn and Frank Memme, hope an appeal will ease construction chores on two small schools in a pair of poor Guatemalan villages.

The instrument guides builders to straight corners, walls, flooring, and ceilings.

When working on a mountain side, it's a special challenge, said Memme.

"Nothing is level."

The experienced builders volunteered for few weeks to put up the three-to-five room schools.

"We have one laser level but need a second," to work on both schools at the same time, said Obdeyn. "It has to be small enough to put into a suitcase."

The schools are nearly eight kilometres apart. "But it takes more than an hour to go up, down and around a mountain," said Memme. Two levels would accelerate the projects.

Anytime with a level can call Obdeyn at 905-692-4721.

For Obdeyn, this is his 30th work visit to Guatemala. Memme has gone "12 or 13 times."

Niagara-based Wells of Hope primarily drills wells to supply clean water to poor villages in the mountains of Guatemala.

In just over 10 years, the non-profit volunteer agency has built 12 wells and installed water systems to serve more than 53,000 people around the communities of Jalapa and Jutiapa. The projects replace dirty water drawn from contaminated streams.

The two new schools will bring to 17 Wells of Hope has built for 2,350 students.

While they started out building wells, Obdeyn said, they found other needs to meet. Schools, health centre and other forms of community services such as bridges and cooking stoves became part of the program.

Children, who used to walk for hours to get water from polluted streams, now have time to go to school. But they lacked well-built schools.

Niagara school children have helped by donating backpacks to Wells of Hope



WAYNE CAMPBELL/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Frank Memme, left, and Ben Obdeyn practise for a Wells of Hope school construction project in Guatemala. They are asking for donation of a small laser level.

filled with supplies for Guatemala students and by collecting coins to build schools.

Wells of Hope maintains a camp for volunteers who pay their way from Canada to help for two weeks. They work on projects such as drilling, building schools, roads and bridges or providing dental and other health care.

For Obdeyn, this is his second tool request.

Two years ago, he asked Niagara residents for help since Guatemalan farmers had little except homemade hoses. They needed hammers and saws in particular.

Obdeyn received more than 2,000 tools in scores of tool boxes drawn from basements, garages and sheds across the region.

For more information about Wells of Hope, its projects and funding needs see [www.wellofhope.com](http://www.wellofhope.com)

## Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc. Proudly Supporting Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Each NPEI employee who typically wears a yellow or white hard hat, including all Linemen and those in the Field Services like our Engineering Technicians received a pink hard hat to wear for the month of October. Your Local Utility is Part of Your Community for 100 years.

 Give a little time to make a big difference. Volunteer.



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[Twitter/npeiplastics](http://Twitter/npeiplastics) [www.npei.ca](http://www.npei.ca)



# Capping the costs for an affordable community centre

DAVE AUGUSTYN

For Postmedia Network

At the end of July, I wrote here about how Council changed gears in the design of a more affordable Multi-Faceted Community Centre (MFCC). Council considered the matter again last week and approved hiring a construction manager and capping the operating and capital costs.

You will recall that, based on a detailed business case analysis in 2013/14, the Town confirmed that "sustained demand" for a MFCC (single-pad arena, a fitness centre, walking / running indoor track, 2,000 square-foot multi-purpose space, and double gymnasium) existed.

So, Council appointed a citizen/user-based Architectural Design Advisory Committee (ADAC) in August 2014 to help design that type

of facility. In February 2015, Council agreed with ADAC's recommendations of adding a large multi-purpose / performing arts space (+6,000 square feet), an atrium/shared public space (+9,600 square feet), and +1,200 spectator seating.

Council also agreed with ADAC's later recommendations to do two things. One, re-evaluate the business case for building a twin-pad arena during the initial build (instead of after 2023). Two, tender the operation of the potential centre to the private sector.

Concerned with the project's affordability / future, however, Council directed staff to determine potential capital and operating costs of this expanded design.

In early-July, Council agreed with a Leisure-park recommendation that, because "a second ice pad by 2018/19.

In late-July, Council learned that no private firms wanted to operate the Centre; that a "Class-D" estimate pegged the expanded design at \$34 million; and that a pro forma estimate put the operating costs of that design at +\$500,000 per year.

Clearly the design ballooned above the initial operating and capital business case and had to be rationalized and reduced.

So, Council directed staff to refine the pro forma's operating costs, to start develop a realistic fundraising plan, and to recommend a construction manager who would help make the design more affordable to build and operate.

When these matters arose on Oct. 19, we took action. First, Council approved hiring Ball Construction as a construction manager to help the architect and staff to find cost efficient

and assist in reducing the facility's overall capital and operating costs. Second, Priorities Committee placed a \$30-million capital and a \$200,000 operating-subsidy cap on the project's design.

Third, we will excess property, raise community funds, or receive government grants, those funds will make these capital costs even more affordable. Third, we directed staff to circulate this information to ADAC members.

Staff suggested that we might see the next major re-design in early 2016.

I will continue to keep you informed about progress of the potential multi-purpose community centre.

Check out links for documents and past columns at [www.pelhamnewsonline.blogspot.com](http://www.pelhamnewsonline.blogspot.com). You may contact Mayor Dave at [mayordave@pelham.ca](mailto:mayordave@pelham.ca) with questions or to suggest future topics.



HANDOUT/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Mirechu is pictured in Montreal in September 1971 in this photo by Rene Beauchamp.

## Shipwrecks — Mirechu

SKIP GILLHAM

For Postmedia Network

The Spanish built cargo ship *Mirechu* was only two years old when it first came to the Great Lakes in 1970.

The 117.96-metre-long, 4,258 gross tonne freighter was sold in 1972 and was back through the St. Lawrence Seaway again that year as *Sierra Jara*.

At the time, the ship was sailing as *Acme I* when it ran aground on the Berthie River in Guyana on June 28, 1981. The vessel was refloated, taken to San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic, birthplace of a number of former Toronto Blue Jays, and laid up.

Despite being declared a total loss, the ship was repaired and returned to service as *Altair I*. In 1983, became *Galazio Kyma* in 1990 and *Antares* in 1992. The latter was disabled in the Gulf of Mexico on Dec. 23, 1993, and abandoned by the crew in leaking condition. A salvage crew managed to get the ship to Mobile, Ala., where pumps were constantly operated to keep the vessel afloat.

At this time it was not repaired and, on Sept. 26, 1995, *Antares* was towed out to sea and scuttled, as an artificial reef, about 29 kilometres south of Pensacola, Fla.

**ONLINE**  Get breaking news as it happens.

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# Kick back with this easy drinking Chardonnay

One can be forgiven for visiting Flat Rock Cells in the Jordan area simply for the view.

Perched atop the escarpment the winery has a picturesque view of vineyards stretching to Lake Ontario and beyond, but also the home of some very fine, quality wines that president Ed Madronich sees as ready for the global market.

From the outset, Flat Rock has chosen to focus on just a few varieties ones that grow well in this region.

From a production perspective, we do every little thing for every grape, every bunch, every berry as well as we possibly can," said Madronich.

"So we know we're making really good wines."

Their strategy continues to be not just as a great Ontario winery, but to be a great winery

period.

"That means I want to deliver what's inside the bottle at the price point that we offer it," he added.

"And that means better than what Chile, Australia or France are doing."

"I think someone here in Ontario is looking to buy a bottle of wine, they're confident that we're competitive to anywhere else in the world."

Madronich said that historically, Ontario was only known for making cheap wines and has only begun to make higher priced, high quality wine for the last 15 to 20 years.

And while Canadian icewines have made a significant impact around the world, the other varieties still have a ways to go to find their category and shelf space.

"We have the best soils," said Madronich. He compared the

temperature and soils as comparable to the wine regions in France.

"When you look what at what the price of wine is for great quality wines is, we're a great value."

Madronich said that if we were to take the winery and move it to Oregon, the price of the wines would automatically double overnight.

"Right now, people aren't paying for it, not because the quality is not there, it's not in our mind set," he said.

Winemakers will taste this wine, and you have to change more for your wines, because your making us look had by comparison.

To prove his point Madronich brought out his Good Karma Chardonnay from 2013.

"It's an awesome wine, hand picked, hand sorted, gravity feed, french oak barrel aged, it super

over delivers," he huffed.

"Good Karma, we make every drop at the exact same way, which is as best as we can, at the end of the day we divide on style not on quality," said Madronich.

"That and our estate Pinot are hands down away our best value wines."

The first easy wine to review and describe.

While some wines and descriptions leave you hunting, this wine is very up front. As a Chardonnay, it is a little more fruity with less oak.

Wonderful on the nose with hints of fresh apple.

As you take your first sip, the creamy texture envelops your tongue and then follows up with citrus acidity, particularly lime on the finish.

Delicious, well balanced, and a very

gentle flavour of oak, this wine will over many fans.

It's priced at \$16.95, which in my opinion is a great value.

To top it off, a portion of the sales of the wine goes to the Ontario Association of Food Banks.

"There's a lot of people in this province who don't have access to that (healthy food). This to me is a way people can give to a food bank on an everyday basis," added Madronich.

"We want to be part of the solution that everyone has a full stomach."

Good Karma indeed.

The wine is available at the winery and LCBO locations.

bob.lymczyszy@sunmedia.ca  
@bcbtym



BOB LYMCZYSZY/  
POSTMEDIA  
NETWORK  
Flat Rock  
Cellars  
2013 Good  
Karma  
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is an easy  
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chardonnay  
from the  
Niagara  
Region.

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## Maria Lucarelli

Maria is a partner at Lancaster, Brooks & Welch and a member of the family law team. Maria's legal focus is in the areas of matrimonial law, including pre-nuptials, separation, divorce and child custody matters. Concern for her clients' wellbeing is evident to all who deal with her.



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## ■ CRIME

# Man shot with police in Pelham upgraded to serious condition

**GREG FURNINGER**  
Pelham News

A man who was shot along with two Niagara Regional Police officers earlier this month at a Fenwick apartment building is in improving condition at hospital.

Monica Hudan, a spokeswoman for the Niagara's Special Investigations Unit said Thursday the man was in serious condition.

He had been listed for several days as being critical.

Although the SIU and police have not named the man, he has been identified as an 29-year-old Corey Richardson.

Two officers who were also shot on the top floor of the Canboro Gardens apartment complex on the night of Oct. 14 have not yet returned to work. Const.

Neil Ridley, an eight-year member of the force, and Const. Jake Braun, a five-year member, are both still recuperating at home. Const. Phil Cavin said.

One officer was shot in the shoulder and two other places, the other was shot in the foot. Police have not indicated which officer sustained what injuries.

Police responded to a report of an armed suicidal man at 704 Canboro Rd. just past 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 10.

Police have previously reported that a man left his apartment and began shooting at police. As of Thursday, no charges have been laid as investigations are ongoing.

greg.furninger@summaedia.ca  
Twitter: @GregAtTheTrib

## ■ ZERO INCREASE

# Police draw line on budget

**DON FRASER**  
Postmedia Network

ments. Personnel salaries, benefits and other allowances make up 99% of the total operating budget.

The \$133.16-million operating budget was passed last Thursday, and will be forwarded to Niagara regional council for final approval.

In July, the NRPB's council asked the service to prepare a budget that avoided any increase in order to meet a Niagara Region target.

The service responded to budget pressures, and subject to identified unresolved factors ... was able to meet the budget guidance," said a staff report prepared by police services finance manager Luisa Russo.

"I'd like to publicly thank the chief and staff," said board member David Barrick. "They've done a tremendous job at zero per cent."

"My understanding is in recent memory, it has never occurred [for] the service board, certainly in the last 10 years, I think the average has been about four per cent year over year," he said.

"There was a tremendous amount of work and effort ... it sends a strong message," he said. "It gives the police service and board, I believe, a lot of credibility when we go to the Region [Nov. 5] and it considers their budget and our budget as well."

Barrick called it a "responsible budget" that maintains current service levels.

Board chairman Bob Gale expressed his "compliments, too."

"Like member Barrick [said], nobody can ever remember it coming in on a zero budget."

Some "significant risks" to the budget remain outstanding, according to the staff report received at the meeting. They include the impact of unsettled collective agree-

ments. Personnel salaries, benefits and other allowances make up 99% of the total operating budget.

A principal grants program is also being considered with no information yet available on how that reform could affect the budget.

Among the spending reductions was a staff compensation cut of \$700,000, with other decreases including fuel price savings, discretionary spending and program changes.

Meanwhile, the report says new deployment strategies and efficiencies began in 2012 in anticipation of moving into new police facilities. The new 207,000-square-foot headquarters in Niagara Falls is under construction but is expected to be complete by the end of the year, according to the NRPB website.

"The service has been able to 'scale up' through the realization of new headquarters savings, a pre-budget program review exercise, continued rationalizing and reducing of discretionary spending and reprioritizing resources," the report added.

Of total staff or "service authority strength," the 2015 budget had 706 uniform and 312 civilian staff for a total of 1,018.

Those numbers, as part of the 2016 budget are 658 uniform staff and 304 civilians for a total of 1,002.

In addition to the police services budget, the police board budget came in at \$724,250.

The service's proposed capital budget of \$2.7 million was also approved, with vice-chair Andy Barrick voting against it, citing a number of capital expenditure concerns.

The capital budget is financed through police service reserves.

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## RECREATION PROGRAMS & CLASS

### Zumba Classes @ Pelham Arena — Drop-Ins Welcome!

Tuesday, November 3 9:30 – 10:30 am  
 Tuesday, November 3 7:00 – 8:00 pm  
 Wednesday, November 4 7:30 – 8:30 pm  
 Thursday, November 5 10:00-11:00 am

### Walking Club - Everyone Welcome!

Tuesdays at Pelham Arena from 9-10 am and Thursdays at Fonthill Bandsheil from 9:10-10 am.  
 For more information, please contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 329.

## Arena Programs

Public Skating	Adult Public Skating	Adult/Preschool	Men's Shiny Hockey	Women's Shiny Hockey	Women's Learn to Play Hockey	Pelham Panthers-Home Games
Sunday Nov 1 1:00-2:20 pm	Thursday, Nov 5 1:00-2:00 pm	Tuesday, Nov 3 1:00-2:00 pm Friday, Nov 6 10:00-11:00 am	Tuesday, Nov 3 8:00-9:00 am Friday, Nov 6 9:00-10:00 am	Monday Nov 2 9:30-10:45 am Thursday Nov 5 10:30-11:45 am	Thursday, Nov 5 9:30-10:30 am  Hockey Skills Hour Thursday, Nov 5 2:00-3:00 pm	Friday, Nov 6 7:30 pm vs. Thorold  Tuesday, Nov 13 7:30 pm vs. Caledonia

Shall we dance?



Join us for an instructor-led

### Pelham Ballroom Social

Sat, Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015,  
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Old Pelham Town Hall  
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Visit [pelham.ca/](http://pelham.ca/)  
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## Santa Claus Parade

Felham's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Santa Claus Parade  
Saturday, December 12, 2015.

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

**APPLY NOW!**

### Community Day in the Park

Enjoy a day in  
Centennial Park  
Afternoon Parade  
with hot dogs,  
chill, hot chocolate  
and an opportunity  
to meet Santa Claus!

Join in the fun - show  
your holiday and  
community spirit

Parade application forms and  
more information available at

[www.pelham.ca](http://www.pelham.ca)



[www.pelham.ca](http://www.pelham.ca)

## Get to Know Your Municipal Drains Information Session

Saturday, October 31, 2015 from 9-11 am  
at Pelham Fire Station 2 (766 Welland Road)

• Learn more about municipal drains & how they may impact your property.

• Get facts about relevant drainage legislation & talk to Pelham's Drainage Superintendent.

For more information, please contact 905-892-2607 ext. 323.



## CHRISTMAS IN PELHAM

November 4, 2015 – January 3, 2016



Get ready for the holidays. Check out these great upcoming events around Town and watch for more next week!

November 4 (6pm to 9pm): Holiday Gift Showcase and Downtown Stroll - Downtown Fonthill

November 5 (10am to 9pm), November 6 (10am to 8pm), November 7 (10am to 5pm): Holiday Gift Showcase - Shoppes of Ridgeville

# LOCAL NEWS

■ CRIME: Crooks create a sense of panic

## Caller ID defeated by new trick: spoofing

TONY RICCIUTO  
Postmedia Network

Thieves and fraudsters are using a trick called spoofing that allows them to defeat the caller ID feature on a telephone.

"You can spoof a phone number so that it makes it look like *The Tribune* is calling or the Niagara Regional Police Service is calling. The number will pop up, but you don't know who is calling," NRP Det. Sgt. Paul Spiridi, head of the central fraud unit, said.

"There are a number of apps out there that will allow you to hide and mask your own number that is calling. We are seeing a combination of things. There are ones where the person's own number pops up, and they are also able to grab another number that is similar to the area, and that is becoming a lot more people will be picking up out-of-province calls or 1-800 numbers that are coming in because they don't want to deal with telemarketers."

These types of calls are catching some people off guard because they actually think the police, Revenue Canada, their bank or credit card company is making the call.

"It's a way for them to get you to pick up the phone and then deal with whatever type of scam they are running," Spiridi said. "It gives it that air of legitimacy. It's the



Caller ID feature on your phone can be defeated by crooks. It's called spoofing and it's a way to disguise who is making the phone call.

MICHELE CHIATTISTA / MAGNAR FALLS REVIEW

same thing when they spoof an e-mail address that might say Niagara Regional Police or CRA."

E-mail spoofing is more commonly known as phishing. It is often used by dishonest advertisers, and sometimes thieves, to falsify the "from" entry on an e-mail to try and trick victims that the message is coming from a friend,

bank or some other legitimate source.

"You just can't rely on an e-mail or a phone number that is coming in to you, because if I'm trying to rip you off I will lie to you and give you a bogus number to call," said Spiridi, who has been working the fraud beat for about nine years.

His advice is to never give

out personal information to someone you don't know or the other end of the phone.

Spiridi said it's best to take the caller's information down and to call them back later. That will give you time to confirm if that name and phone number are actually from your bank or credit card company by comparing them with what is on their website or on one of

your invoices.

"We get phone calls from other police agencies all the time. If I haven't dealt with that person before and I don't know the voice, then I will ask for a name and number and I will call them back," said Spiridi. "It's unfortunate that you have to be untrusting, but now there are so many scams out there it has come to that

point."

Police say crooks are trying to create a sense of panic when they call someone and the display name or phone number appears to be coming from the police, bank or another police or your credit card company.

"These guys are very good at what they do," Spiridi said. "They might say that you owe money or that you are going to be arrested, or that your accounts have been compromised and they need to confirm some information. You are not expecting a fraud when you see the call display and get your guard down."

Once crooks obtain your personal information, police say they will use it to make purchases.

"This is organised crime and they are very good at what they do," said Spiridi.

Don't call the person back and blast them for bothering you because they might not be the person who made the call he said.

Companies work to put a security feature in place and there are people out there who are trying to find ways to beat it, he said.

"Some people will get these types of calls and hang up because they know they are not true, but they are praying on the ones they can catch off guard."

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# LOCAL NEWS

■ NIAGARA COLLEGE: Studying nursing now at Welland campus

## Kenyan student has memories of terror attack

MICHELLE ALLENBERG  
Postmedia Network

With about 1,000 new international students from 90 countries, Niagara College has much of the world map covered.

But Ruth Ndumia, 33, is one of two only Kenyan students attending Niagara this year.

Ndumia has been a nurse in Kenya for 10 years. In the terrorist attack at the Westgate shopping mall in Kenya in 2013 that left 67 people dead, Ndumia was one of the nurses helping on scene.

After the attack, victims were sent to the nearest hospitals and Ndumia went with other nurses to help the hospitals cope with the volume of patients.

The attack "was the most horrible thing I've ever seen," she said.

Ndumia lived in Nairobi, Kenya her whole life before coming to Canada.

For most students, the decision to attend post-secondary school is theirs alone. But for Ndumia, it was a group choice.

She works at the Karen Hospital in Nairobi and was selected by the hospital to apply to attend post-secondary school overseas.

"We wanted to upgrade our standard for patient care in

the critical care unit and cardiac department," Ndumia said.

She was accepted to the one-year post-graduate certificate in RN — Critical Care Nursing program offered at the university and came here.

"I already know what we have back home, so now I'm learning how to improve," she said.

Ndumia has been in Canada since Aug. 22 and wants to see what the hospitals here are like. She said she is also very interested in health-care policies.

Ndumia compared the teaching styles of Kenya and Canada and said they are very different. In Canada, she said, it is student centred and it is more hands-on. In Kenya, her studies seemed to be more theory based.

It is her first time in North America, and she is "very excited" to be at Niagara College.

When Ndumia was considering schools, she had to choose between Canada and Australia. She chose Canada because the paperwork was more straightforward and regulations were easier to understand.

Part of what makes Niagara College and Canada appealing, she said, is the support

from the school's international department. Director Sean Coote said staff assists new students any way it can.

"We help them from the application process, up until they get on the plane. From the time they land in Toronto — we offer a pickup service," he said.

The department connects new students with other international students so they can become more settled. Ndumia said she hasn't taken advantage of this yet, but she will now that she knows there's another Kenyan student.

"We pride ourselves on preparing students to be globally-ready. The idea that our kind of global education can even extend to helping to bring students who can work cross-culturally, who understand

different cultures ... when allows us to that classroom ... allows all of our students to graduate with more global skills," Coote said.

Coote said a few days before Orientation Week, the school had a special orientation for international students.

Ndumia didn't attend that but did go to Orientation Week. She said that is where she has made friends.

Another benefit of having international students is economic development in Niagara.

Coote said many students will start businesses after they graduate.

Ndumia wants to gain Canadian experience once she graduates and plans to apply for a one-year work visa.



Ruth Ndumia, 33, stands in front of the Canadian flag at her rented house in Welland.

"I want to get the experience to see how what we learned gets put into practice,"

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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **FUNDRAISER:** Red Bull event to benefit spinal-cord research

## Wings for Life run coming back

RAY SPITERI  
Postmedia Network

Niagara Falls will again represent Canada when the 2016 Red Bull Wings for Life World Run returns to the Home of the Canadian Parliament in May.

Earlier this year, more than 700 runners took off from Kingsbridge Park at the same time as more than 100,000 participants from around the world for the same cause: To raise more than \$5.5 million for spinal-cord research.

On May 8, Niagara Falls will host one of 35 runs across six continents in the simultaneous event, which will be broadcast live.

Registration is now open at [www.wingsforlifeworldrun.com](http://www.wingsforlifeworldrun.com), with 100 per cent of entry fees going directly towards spinal-cord research.

Unlike a traditional race, there is no static finish line. Competitors run in front of an advancing "catcher car," with each car around the world governed by a single, global race schedule. A half-hour after the runners start, the pace car at every race location begins on the track.

Once a car overtakes a runner, their race is over. This continues until there is only one male and one female in the world left running.

Only then will the crowned the Wings for Life World Run champions, meaning runners not only compete head to head with those in their country, but also around the world.

Blairne Penny, of Calgary, won the Niagara Falls event last year with a total distance of 65 kilometres, which also made him the last male running in any of the three North American events.

Canadian Olympic cyclist Lyne Besette, of Quebec, won the women's category with a run of 47 kilometres.

At the age of 47, Lernawork Ketem, of Ethiopia, was the last male running in the world for the second year in a row with a distance of 79.9 km.

It's estimated that three million people are living with a spinal-cord injury around the world. Every year, 130,000

### 2015 STATS

Global runners: 101,280

Niagara Falls runners: 750

Global kilometres run: 1,059,529

Global money raised: \$3.5M

more sustain a spinal-cord injury, followed by paralysis — the main cause being traffic accidents.

In Canada, there are more than 86,000 people living with spinal-cord injury, with 51 per cent as a result of traumatic injury. Each year, it's estimated, there are 4,300 new cases across the country.

Organizers said they were looking for an "iconically Canadian" destination to host the run, and Niagara Falls fit the bill.

The said Niagara Falls also has the "perfect layout" for the run, which is a 100 km stretch, which is flat or with an equivalent elevation.

Organizers said they're expecting between 1,000 and 1,500 runners in Niagara in May, adding they were fielding questions throughout the summer wondering if the run would return.

Niagara Falls Tourism chairman Wayne Thomson said just like it was earlier this year, the 2016 run should be "pretty spectacular."

"I think you had more than 700 runners with their friends and their families coming to Niagara Falls and being the only stop in Canada, the massive publicity that we get from that is huge," he said.

"That's what it's all about — getting as many events and happening as you can. Here at Niagara Falls Tourism, we'll get it on our website and promote it and market it. We're looking forward to it."

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# LOCAL NEWS

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Monsters of Schlock invade TV

JOHN LAW  
Postmedia Network

They've endured every kind of horror they can inflict on each other, but are the Canadian mad men of Monsters of Schlock ready for a prime time series?

As always, they'll give it a shot. Painfully.

The crazed performance art duo of Sweet Pepper Klopke of Niagara Falls and one-time partner Burnaby Q. Orbax of Guelph have filmed a pilot, and are trying to crowd fund \$25,000 on Kickstarter to film the rest of a six-episode series they describe as *Super Dave Osborne* meets *Flight of the Conchords*.

Despite their reputation

for mind-boggling, gross out antics, they insist this won't be another *Jackass*.

"When people hear we're doing a TV show, that's usually what they think," said Klopke, former singer in Niagara band The Legendary Klopkes. "Some sort of cross between *Jackass* and *America's Funniest Home Videos*. What we're actually doing is totally different."

The show aims to be a sitcom based on their "hilariously ridiculous lives," written and directed by Brett Nikita. The story follows Orbax trying to expose his hack magician partner as a huck magician doing lazy tricks.

Meanwhile, Klopke is

breezing through life with an open mind and open heart, exploring a lifelong fascination with cryptozoology.

Klopke said fans can help fund this show in different ways on Kickstarter — \$100 gets you to a red carpet screening of the entire season in Niagara Falls, while \$5,000 gets your own personal performance. For \$40, you'll get the entire series on DVD when it's released.

For Klopke, the rigours of a TV show will seem calm after an intense decade on the road, setting six Guinness World Records along the way. They perform about 200 live shows per year in bars and col-

lege campuses across the country, though they were banned in licensed venues in Alberta in 2008.

"For the last 10 years we've been touring the world and our very physically intense stunt work," Klopke said. "We're actually kind of looking forward to being in one place for a while."

"The older we get, the longer it takes to heal. Shockingly, we're holding up pretty well."

The duo appears on the taping of *Live on Queen* with David Green at Tap Tap Brewery in Niagara Falls. The episode went online Oct. 12.

john.law@sunmedia.ca



SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Sweet Pepper Klopke, left, and Burnaby Q. Orbax are bringing Monsters of Schlock to TV. The duo have started a Kickstarter campaign to film a six-episode series, after a notorious decade on the road.



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■ NIAGARA COLLEGE: Faceless dolls represent murdered, missing aboriginal women

# 'We've had so many fallen sisters'

MARYANNE FIRTH

Postmedia Network

Each piece of felt is cut with intention.

Each strand of hair is meticulously placed.

Alikii-Babe Froman takes great care as she assembles the doll, knowing the harsh story it tells and the important message it's intended to deliver.

Where the face should be, a hollow space remains.

It is a reminder that the woman behind the doll has been forgotten by society.

Dozens of faceless dolls were created at Niagara College's Niagara-on-the-Lake campus during a recent workshop hosted by Froman to honour the memory of missing and murdered aboriginal women in Canada.

The 24-year-old general business student plans to keep the initiative going until 1,200 dolls are made, each representing a forgotten life.

It's a cause Froman, originally from Six Nations reserve and now living in Welland, holds close to her heart.

"It touches very close to home, as am First Nations," she said, while breaking momentarily from urging passersby to get involved in the workshop and become informed.

"We've had so many fallen sisters, aunts, daughters, grandmothers. Their lives matter, too."

Froman's birth mother, Kim Yake, came dangerously close to adding to that gut-wrenching list.

Having fallen to a life of prostitution in B.C., she had joined several women on an expedition to the home of now infamous serial killer Robert Pickton. After an unsettling feeling made her leave, she left her friends behind and hitchhiked back to town, Froman said.

"She never saw those girls again. Their deaths and their missing status was never reported."

How easily those women were forgotten long haunted Yake, who turned her life around and later worked to educate youths about the dangers of drugs and prostitution. She died in 2013.

Froman, who considers her mother a "hero" in her life, wants to take her mother's legacy further and shine a spotlight on it through the initiative.

"I just want to make sure people realize that all lives matter," she said.

She hoped the jarring appearance of the faceless dolls would work to catch the attention of people at the college. "I want to create that awareness. People just don't know," she said.

"The amount of missing and murdered aboriginal women is so astounding compared to non-native women," Froman said, adding "higher authorities just don't seem to care about First Nations women."

"It would be a horrific thing if my son woke up one day and just didn't know where I was and nobody bothered looking for me," she said.

"It would be a horrible thing for him to go through. I've witnessed it in so many other families, as well as my own. It's so hard to see that type of fear implemented in somebody's eyes."

It's a shock to those within the First Nations community

"when one of our loved ones goes missing and nobody else cares," Froman said, adding she believes more people would care if they were properly informed.

Additional faceless dolls workshops will be held until the 1,200-dollar mark is met.

They will be put on display at the Niagara College Welland campus and later sent to Ottawa, where they will be featured at the Native Women Association of Canada headquarters.

Froman hopes those who see the dolls will walk away with a

sense of empathy.

"I hope people start to recognize the importance of these issues," she said.

It begins with awareness, she said, and leads to change.

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MARYANNE FIRTH/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Niagara College student Alikii-Babe Froman is leading an initiative through which faceless dolls are being created to honour the memory of missing and murdered aboriginal women in Canada. Froman is pictured on Oct. 9 in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

■ **LIGHT OF DAY NIAGARA:** Meridian Centre show Nov. 6

# After 30 years, Blue Rodeo still brings it

**JOHN LAW**  
Postmedia Network

When a band hits the 30-year mark, they're pretty much heard it all.

Bazil Donovan certainly has. Blue Rodeo's original bassist hasn't been there since Day 1, alongside co-founders Jim Cuddy and Greg Keelor, and not much escapes his attention.

He has seen the crowds go from rowdy college kids to families with lawn chairs. He has watched concerts go from high energy rave-ups to more mellow affairs. And he's read those comments about Blue Rodeo's first five records being the only ones that matter.

That last one makes Donovan chuckle. As a music buff, he gets it.

"I'm guilty of it myself with some of my favourite artists," he says. "Do I really need the new Rolling Stones record? I think their best work is probably already out there. But then again, Bob Dylan still makes (great) records. Every now and then he comes out with a record where I go 'This is a really good record,' and he's seventy-something.

"I mean, you try and just go past that. Whatever happens happens. Some people after those would 10 of them, they make great records. I figure if they're that had, people won't buy them."

The rest of Blue Rodeo gets it as well. In 2012, the band's illustrious first five albums (*Outskirts*, *Diamond Mine*, *Casino*,

*Lost Together* and *Five Days in July*) were remastered and re-released by Warner Music in a boxed set. But skipping their work since would deny you the spacey rock of *Nowhere to Here* (1995), the hack-to-basics songcraft of *Are You Ready* (2005) and the scattered greatness of 2009's double-disc *The Things We Left Behind*.

"Usually after we make a record, we can tell the level for excitement we have for it," says Keelor. "The record I'm most excited about, I have to be honest, I kind of went 'I don't think this is our best record.' I won't say that out loud because some other people worked really hard on it ... but time usually tells."

"We still go at it with the same intensity we always did, but I

guess there's not as much on the line any more. Back when we were making the first five records, we were trying to break it in the States still. We were concerned about all these things that we're not just concerned about now."

"Now we just concerned about 'Do we like it?' We live with it, and that's basically what counts."

Debuting this year's *Light of Day* Niagara tour from Nov. 6 to 8, when I, to be honest, I kind of went "I don't think this is our best record," I won't say that out loud because some other people worked really hard on it ... but time usually tells."

"We're recording some stuff lately, and Jim and I are looking at each other going, 'We've

to let the hand grow stale.'

Donovan has watched Cuddy and Keelor make classics since they were all 20-somethings in Toronto during the '90s. They've all done solo projects, but something about the Blue Rodeo umbrella still pushes them to their limits.

"They write separately, but they're still just as competitive as they ever were," he says. "That's just the way they are. If Greg knows that Jim has a batch of really good songs, it makes him want to write more."

"Greg is the one who likes to get more adventurous. He's always trying to take us somewhere we haven't been before. We're recording some stuff lately, and Jim and I are looking at each other going, 'We've

**WHO:** Blue Rodeo, Joe Grushecky, Eddie Marion, Joe D'Urso, Jason Heath, Bobby MacIntyre, Miss Emily, Rob Baker & Gord Sinclair

**WHAT:** Light of Day Niagara

**WHERE:** Meridian Centre, 1 IceDogs Way, St. Catharines

**WHEN:** Nov. 6, 7 p.m.

**TICKETS:** \$75 premium, \$50 regular, www.lightofdaycanada.com

never done anything like this before. If we put this on a record people aren't going to know what to make of it.' By the time it gets out, probably something will change, but we still have to push the envelope a bit, just for us."

Sometimes the envelope pushes back. Being around 30 years has led to some hardships, including the death of former keyboardist James Gray in 2013, and Keelor's battle with diabetes.



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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **HEALTH CARE:** New clinic introduced at St. Catharines hospital

## NHS looks to bust blood clots

**MARYANNE FIRTH**  
Postmedia Network

Niagara Health System is targeting the leading cause of preventable deaths in hospitals.

The leading cause of formation of potentially deadly blood clots in arteries or veins — causes most of the world's top three cardiovascular killers: heart attack, stroke and venous thromboembolism. As a result, one in four people die from cause related to thrombosis.

In conjunction with the recent World Thrombosis Day, the NHS launched its first thrombosis service at the St. Catharines hospital.

The program is two years in the making and was developed with assistance from existing programs at St. Joseph's Health-care Hamilton and Hamilton

Health Sciences. It was also made possible through a partnership with pharmaceutical companies Boehringer Ingelheim and LEO Pharma, which each provided funding and other support to get the clinic up and running.

"There are approximately 10 million people every year who are affected by venous thromboembolic disease," Dr. Blair Leonard, the NHS regional thrombosis lead, told the crowd gathered for the launch. "It's the most common cause of preventable death in hospitals. About 60% of those clots are associated either with the time in hospital or the time immediately after that."

Once formed, a clot can slow or block normal blood flow and may break loose and travel to an organ, which can result in

significant injury.

Until the launch of the new service, anyone wanting to see a physician specializing in blood clots had to go to Hamilton, Leonard said.

While there were physicians in the region who could treat blood clots, there was not a specialist available locally.

"It's such a predominant aspect of health care, so to have a specialist in the region was a big hole," he said.

The new thrombosis clinic, staffed by three hematologists and a registered nurse, is to provide local expertise in "managing this deadly condition and the medications needed to treat it," Leonard said.

"Anticoagulant therapy and its management have become much more complex as new drugs are introduced, and phy-

sicians need expert assistance to provide the most clinically appropriate antithrombotic management. Ultimately this should lead to better and safer patient care."

The program is expected to reduce anticoagulation-related mortality, decrease bleeding complications, reduce transfusion requirements and reduce hospital re-admissions related to bleeding complications.

While initially centred in St. Catharines, the program is expected to eventually expand the service to other areas of Niagara.

"We are hoping to provide service across the region either using telemedicine or eventually to have boots on the ground at other local hospital sites, as well," Leonard said.

He estimated 500 to 1,000 patients will be seen during the



MARYANNE FIRTH/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Niagara Health System regional thrombosis lead Dr. Blair Leonard sits in the thrombosis service clinic at St. Catharines hospital.

service's first year.

Dr. Stan Schulman, director of the clinical thromboembolism program at Hamilton Health Sciences, said the program is expected to benefit Niagara patients, who will no longer have to travel for treatment, as well as Hamilton's thrombosis teams which have been "struggling" with an influx of patients.

He estimated 600 consultations are done per month by Hamilton's thrombosis services.

Niagara's programming is expected to provide some relief and allow more time for clinical research in Hamilton, Schulman said.

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## ■ RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS DAY



KARENNA WALTER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Jeff Sinclair and Lesley Calvin of Niagara College and Kristen Smith of Brock University join Mayor Walter Sendzik recently at city hall for the launch of Random Act of Kindness 2015 which takes place Nov. 6. The Niagara Community Foundation event encourages residents to make someone's day with kind acts and show how generous the community can be.

## Niagarans asked to pay it forward Nov. 6

KARENNA WALTER  
Postmedia Network

Students will rake leaves for unsuspecting seniors. Staff will hand out healthy snacks on campus. And positive, unexpected messages in chalk will dot Brock University's grounds.

It's all part of Random Act of Kindness Day Nov. 6, when Niagara celebrates being kind to others.

The university and Niagara College will participate in the annual event along with schools, organizations and individuals across the region.

"It's a good opportunity to celebrate a sense of community in Niagara and on campus," said Kristen Smith, Brock University manager of student community outreach.

It's the sixth year the Niagara Community Foundation has held the initiative.

JoAnne Krick, the foundation's community initiatives manager, said participation has grown since the first year and they've been getting calls from individuals and groups who want to get involved.

"The momentum builds every year. So many groups are doing amazing things in their neighbourhoods," she said.

hot chocolate on a cold morning and individuals bought strangers coffee in drive-thru lines.

"Niagara is always a very kind community. Random Act of Kindness Day is a way to celebrate kindness," she said.

The foundation provides cards for participants to give to recipients when they commit a random act of kindness, asking them to pay it forward.

While it's not easy to measure how many people participate in the initiative because one card can pass through multiple hands, the foundation prints 75,000 of them.

Residents are asked to share their acts of kindness on Facebook or Twitter on Nov. 6 with the hashtag #RAKDayNiagara.

"Kindness is contagious," Krick said.

"It's such a good feeling. It doesn't have to cost a thing. It helps us build community."

Niagara College community engagement co-ordinator Jeff Smith said tens of students at each campus will participate in Random Act of Kindness Day activities.

"We try to get people to do things that are free, because it doesn't cost money to do kind things," he said.

Last year, for instance, the college's international students posted kind thoughts in their native languages on campus. Sinclair said that created an opportunity for students to engage with each other.

### PAY IT FORWARD

**What:** Random Act of Kindness Day

**When:** Friday, Nov. 6, all day

**Where:** Everywhere in Niagara

**How to get involved:** Do something nice for someone. Give them an RAK card, available free from any Meridian Credit Union branch

**More information:** [www.niagaracommunityfoundation.org/rak](http://www.niagaracommunityfoundation.org/rak)

**Twitter:** #rakdayniagara

He said the college wants students to pay it forward, and he expects more students to participate than last year.

"We feel very strongly it's important to do," he said.

Smith, from Brock, said the school will take students to seniors homes but they know some students will have their own ideas for acts of kindness.

"We get the ball rolling and encourage students to get out on their own. We know students do several acts of kindness and we love hearing about them, too," Smith said.

"It makes for a special atmosphere on campus."

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# Kenny Rogers starts saying goodbye

JOHN LAW  
Postmedia Network

The Gambler isn't bluffing. One last world tour, and he's done.

No more tours. No more albums. No more show business. For country icon Kenny Rogers, it's time to walk away. As he announces on The Today Show last month, his 57-year career comes to an end after a retirement tour in early 2016.

Which likely means his four-night string of Christmas concerts at Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort Nov. 11 to 14 is the last chance for local fans to catch him.

As Rogers stresses over the phone from a bus heading to "I don't know," this won't be a fake farewell tour — when it's time, it's time.

"In four years I'll be 81 years old, and I don't like my chances of touring (again)," he says. "You know, it's a chance to kind of retire with dignity."

But there's another big reason: His two 11-year-old twin sons with fifth wife Wanda. Rogers is no longer willing to put career over family.

"In my autobiography I write sometimes there's a fine line between being driven and being selfish. When I was younger I was selfish, and I chose success over my family. I think I paid a price for that, and I'm determined not to do that (again). I have a bucket list for my boys, and I want to make sure I hit it done."

There's certainly nothing left to prove for the Houston-born legend. He topped the country and pop charts with regularity in the '70s and '80s, selling more than 165 million albums. He was finally inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2013 ("I told my boys, it's not when you get in ... it's that you get in").

With a legacy few country singers can match, Rogers realized he's just "pounding the pavement" prolonging it now.

"I swore I wouldn't do that," he says. "And my mobility is really bothering me. I've found some great humour now that my body's gone, but it's just not as much fun when you can't do your best. When

**WHO:** Kenny Rogers  
**WHAT:** Christmas & Hits Tour

**WHERE:** Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort

**WHEN:** Nov. 11 & 12 at 8:30 p.m.; Nov. 13 & 14 at 9 p.m.

**TICKETS:** Start at \$35  
[www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca)

you can't do things you feel you really want to do."

Now that it's wrapping up, Rogers' incredible career deserves a re-evaluation. After starting with a rockabilly group in the '50s and finding his first success with '60s rock group The First Edition, Rogers went solo in 1976 and scored his first huge hit, *Lucille*, the next year. It opened the floodgates. Between 1978 and 1981, Rogers' seven studio albums, including *The Gambler*, *Conceived of My Life*, *Don't Fall In Love With a Dreamer* and *Love the World Away*. He topped the pop charts with *Lady*, written by Lionel Richie, then scored his

biggest hit ever in 1983 with the Dolly Parton duet *Islands In the Stream*, penned by Brooks Gibbons.

Along the way there were movies (*Six Pack*), TV specials, and continuous world tours even as Rogers' physical condition worsened. When he performed at Oakes Garden Theatre in Niagara Falls in 2003, many fans were surprised by his pronounced limp.

But then, as now, Rogers' wit was still sharp. His retirement tour could be as much joking as singing.

"I'm still planning the show, I'd really like to do something totally different," he says. "I'd almost like to come out and sit down on the stage and talk about my career from start to finish, but I don't know how exciting that would be. It'd be fun for me!"

"My life is a series of stories and I'll say this: My humour has gotten better the worse my health gets. I've found some great jokes about being old. There are a lot of people who come to the show because someone talks them



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Kenny Rogers begins his retirement tour in early 2016. But before that his annual Christmas tour hits the Niagara Fallsview Casino Nov. 11 to 14. It will likely be his final shows ever in Niagara Falls.

into it, and they don't really care about my music. I feel like if I can make them laugh, they'll have had a good time. That is my challenge."

But before he starts saying goodbye, Rogers has his annual Christmas tour — a tradition for 34 straight years. It's accompanied by his sixth holiday-themed album, *Once Again It's Christmas*, which

has him partnering with Alison Krauss, Jennifer Nettles and a cappella group Home Free.

"I found some songs that I'd never done before," he says. "There were certain people I wanted to record with, and it was important for me to do it."

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